



## **GLOBAL INFORMATION CENTER**

### **The New \$100 Note**

**For Immediate Release:  
March 18, 1996**

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## **U.S. TREASURER MARY ELLEN WITHROW SPREADS THE WORD ABOUT NEW U.S. CURRENCY**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Treasurer Mary Ellen Withrow is a woman with many responsibilities. As Treasurer, she oversees operations of both the U.S. Mint, which makes all U.S. coins, and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP), which prints all U.S. paper money. In fact, her signature appears on all the U.S. currency printed each day. She also serves as a spokesperson for the U.S. Treasury and as National Honorary Director of the U.S. Savings Bond Program.

But this year, one of Withrow's top priorities is communicating vitally important messages about changes in U.S. currency, which begins March 25 with the introduction of a new \$100 bill. Other denominations also will be changed – at the rate of about one a year – over the next five years.

With more than two-thirds of U.S. notes circulating outside the United States, Withrow wants to make sure people everywhere understand why the currency must be protected against evolving technologies that could be used for counterfeiting. Her current speaking tour is part of a global public information program launched by the U.S. Treasury to educate people around the world.

"It's essential that everyone who uses U.S. currency knows that there will be absolutely no recall or devaluation associated with the change," said Withrow, the 40th Treasurer in U.S. history. "The United States has never recalled its currency. We will honor the older notes long as they remain in circulation."

Unlike other U.S. Treasurers that served before her, Withrow is the first person to hold the post of Treasurer at all levels of government – local, state, and national. At the local level, Withrow was elected Treasurer of her native Marion County, Ohio, in 1976 and 1980. She then served three consecutive terms as Ohio State Treasurer, from 1982 to 1990.

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Withrow began her career in public service in 1969, as the first woman elected to the Elgin Local School Board in Marion County. Later, while serving as the Treasurer for the state of Ohio, she implemented innovative management programs which helped to streamline government and generated record revenues for the state.

"My early experiences in government taught me the importance of perseverance," said Withrow, who was appointed to her present post by President Bill Clinton and approved unanimously by the U.S. Senate. "I've also learned how important it is for public officials to send clear, understandable messages about the issues that effect the people they serve."

A busy public speaker, Withrow spends part of her time traveling throughout the United States and sometimes outside the country. Often, she personally signs U.S. bills for people in the audience. When speaking about changes in the new \$100 bill, Withrow brings along a new \$100 note, pointing out the distinct protective features that have been added to deter would-be counterfeiters.

"I usually begin my speech by telling people that I have an exciting job in Washington and that I manufacture a lot of money," she said. "But then everybody asks for free samples."

In 1990, Withrow was named the nation's Most Valuable State Public Official by *City & State* magazine. In 1992, she received the Donald L. Scantlebury Memorial Award from the Treasury's Joint Financial Management Improvement Program for financial excellence and improvement in government. In 1995, she received the Outstanding Government Service Award from the American Numismatic Association.

Withrow and her husband, Norman, have four daughters and four grandchildren.

The Treasurer's office is part of the U.S. Treasury, which was created in 1789 during the first administration of George Washington. The Treasury formulates and recommends financial, tax and fiscal policies. The department also serves as financial agent of the U.S. Government; manufactures coins and paper currency; and includes law enforcement agencies such as the U.S. Secret Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the U.S. Customs Service.

More information about the redesigned U.S. currency and the office of the U.S. Treasurer is available by calling the Global Information Center at (202) 622-2970, or the U.S. Treasury's interactive fax system at (202) 622-2040. A recorded voice guides callers through a menu of choices on the fax system. Callers may receive a faxed index of available materials by requesting document 591 on the selection menu. Information is also available on the Internet at <http://www.ustreas.gov/>, which is the Treasury's Web site. **Photographs of Treasurer Withrow and of the redesigned bill are available by calling the numbers listed above.**

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